

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 have been examined. Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 13, 15, 16, and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and claims 5-7, 11, 12, 17, and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Also, the Examiner has indicated that claims 2, 9, and 14 contain allowable subject matter.

I. Prior art rejections

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-13, and 15-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) or § 103(a). Since claims 1, 8, and 13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, the rejection of these claims is moot. Also, since claims 3-7, 10-12, and 15-19 depend upon allowable claims 2, 9, or 14, Applicants submit that the claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

II. Allowable subject matter

The Examiner has objected to claims 2, 9, and 14 for being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicates that they contain allowable subject matter. Since such claims have been rewritten in independent form, Applicants submit that the claims are allowable.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 10/042,390

Attorney Docket No. Q68033

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

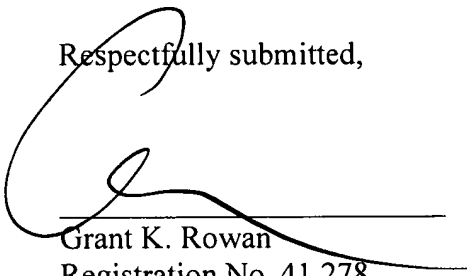
Respectfully submitted,

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